



University for Peace  
Universidad para la Paz



**International Conference  
On  
“Strategies for Peace with Development in Africa:  
The Role of Education, Training and Research”**

Within the context of the Africa Programme now being implemented by the University for Peace and its African partners, an **International Conference is being convened in Addis Ababa in June 2006 on “Strategies for Peace with Development: the Role of Education, Training and Research.”** The Conference is co-organized by the African Union and the University for Peace. It will focus attention across Africa on the challenge of integrating policies to attain peace with those aimed at achieving sustainable development. It is anticipated the conference will identify specific lines of action to strengthen and mobilize education, training and research in practice to build the foundations of peace and development.

**1. THE CONTEXT**

In accordance with its mission from the UN General Assembly, the University for Peace should become, in the words of Secretary General Kofi Annan its Honorary President, “the centre of a worldwide movement of education for peace.” To meet this challenge, UPEACE is therefore implementing an integrated programme composed of three mutually-reinforcing elements:

- teaching “face to face” at its headquarters in Costa Rica and in other locations through both graduate level programmes and short courses;
- establishing regional programmes and networks for capacity building and collaboration with selected universities, NGOs and other partners for teaching, training and research on peace-related issues;
- launching the “UPEACE International Knowledge Dissemination Programme.” This utilizes education and information technologies, (DVD, CD ROM and the Internet), to provide teaching materials, knowledge and skills on critical peace-related issues to institutions of learning and individuals across the world.

**2. UPEACE AFRICA PROGRAMME**

A key element in the world-wide extension of the UPEACE programme has been the launching of a major programme of education for peace in Africa with initial support from the Netherlands. This programme was designed through extensive consultations by the UPEACE Africa team during 2002 in an initial ten countries across the continent (Ethiopia, Liberia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, and Uganda) and with a number of key African regional and sub-regional organizations, leaders and experts.

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The priorities and the activities to be undertaken were then determined by a group of African scholars and experts at a conference held in Maputo in October 2002 with the support of Netherlands and Denmark.

The main substantive activities of the Africa Programme are:

1. Academic teaching.
2. Training programmes for civil society.
3. Research: strengthening African research, its dissemination and use.
4. Peace Education: mobilizing society for peace.
5. The Information Dimensions: inventories, databases, and networks for the dissemination of knowledge.
6. Media and Communications: the news media and conflict.
7. The linkage of policy and research.

This programme is now being implemented with support from Canada, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. A number of activities have so far been launched across Africa with very positive results including for example:

- curriculum development workshops (Durban, South Africa 2003, Abuja, Nigeria 2003, Kampala , Uganda 2003, Jos and Benin City, Nigeria 2005)
- short training courses targeted to specific issues – e.g. Short Course on Justice, Human Rights and Peace, Addis Ababa, August 2005
- research on issues related to peace building – e.g. analysis of the need for institutional reform to support the peace process in Sudan.
- dissemination of knowledge – e.g. training of academics from 30 countries at a workshop in Zambia to use pilot packages of curricular materials drawn from the UPEACE graduate programme on Gender and Peace-building.

### **3. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PEACE WITH DEVELOPMENT:**

As part of its graduate teaching programme, UPEACE has undertaken research and curriculum development on the complex linkages between economic and social development and peace. This reflects a growing recognition that poverty cannot be eradicated and economic development cannot be sustained in an environment of violence and conflict. Conversely, economic progress, which offers employment and the hope of a better life, plays a key role in sustaining peace while economic interests can also be major drivers of conflict.

It is more and more explicitly recognized that the prevention and management of conflict is a critical pre-condition for sustained economic and social development in Africa (AU, NEPAD) and the G8 Africa Action Plan underlines that “economic development has been deeply undermined as scarce resources needed to fight poverty have too often been wasted in deadly and costly armed conflict.”

In order to focus attention and action on this critical interface between peace and development and particularly, to identify specific opportunities to mobilize education, training and research in this sense, the University for Peace is joining hands with the African Union to convene an

international conference in Addis Ababa in June 2006 on the topic: **“Strategies for Peace with Development in Africa: the Role of Education, Training and Research.”**

Discussions on the Conference started some time back when the then Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) , H.E. Mr. Amara Essy, met in June 2002 with a UPEACE delegation composed of H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Sahnoun, Member of the UPEACE Council and Senior Adviser on the Africa Programme and Martin Lees Rector of UPEACE. It was agreed in principle that OAU was ready to co-sponsor such a conference.

More recently, a UPEACE delegation led by the New Rector, Ms Julia Marton-Lefèvre and composed of Amb. Sahnoun, Dr Jean-Bosco Butera, Director of UPEACE Africa Programme and Ms Tsion Tadesse, Programme Assistant, met H.E. Alpha Omar Konare, Chairman of the African Union Commission who did reiterate his support for the organization of the Conference.

The Conference will have two main objectives:

- to focus policy attention on strategies to integrate peace with development: to ensure that measures to reduce poverty, to generate employment and to promote economic and social progress are mutually reinforcing policies to reduce violence and conflict and to build peace and good governance;
- to identify specific needs and targeted follow-up activities where education, training, research and the dissemination of knowledge can be focused to advance peace and development.

#### **4. PRELIMINARY AGENDA**

It is proposed to have the following agenda for the Conference. Further consultations may result in some modifications:

##### **Day 1: Keynote Statements and General Debates on:**

1. Strategies to Integrate the Building of Peace with Sustained Development;
2. Creating Economic Opportunity and Employment to build Stability and Peace;
3. African Approaches to building Peace and Social Solidarity;
4. Foundations for a culture of Peace in Africa.

##### **Day 2: Working Group Discussions: Entrenching the Culture of Peace**

###### **Working Group 1: Generating the Expert Human Resources to Prevent Conflict, to Build Peace and to Advance Development.**

- Producing the qualified teachers required for education and training for peace and development;
- Integrating education for peace and development into national education systems;
- In-service training for officials of regional and sub-regional organizations;
- Training for the military and security sectors;

- Building Capacity for Peace Research in Africa

**Working Group 2: Mobilising Society for Peace and Development.**

- Training needs of NGOs and civil society;
- Mobilising community-based, informal education for peace and development;
- Women in Peacebuilding in Africa;
- Preparing future generations: “Foundations for Africa Future Leadership”.

**Working Group 3: Post Conflict Strategies for Peace and Development**

- Integrating education for Peace in post conflict reconstruction
- Education and training needs to establish and sustain good governance
- Supporting the education for peace in Africa: the role of the international community

**Day 3: Plenary Discussion to define the Framework for Action.**

1. Review of specific proposals from Working Groups;
2. Research priorities to support sound policies for peace and development;
3. Action proposals and recommendations.

**5. TARGET AUDIENCE**

- The Bureau of the Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union
- Education Policy makers from members of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (Permanent Secretaries, Director Generals, Vice-Chancellors, etc...)
- Regional Economic Communities
- Regional Civil Society Organisations
- Pan African Association of Teachers
- Partner Universities and Research Centres
- International Partners
- AU Officials
- UPEACE Officials

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UPEACE Africa Programme